



**CONTACT:**

Brian Levine  
Office Depot  
561-438-2895  
[blevine@officedepot.com](mailto:blevine@officedepot.com)

**OFFICE DEPOT ACHIEVES MILESTONE  
WITH OPENING OF 1,000TH NORTH AMERICAN STORE**

*Nationwide Celebration Includes Community, Customer and Employee Events  
Highlighted by Ribbon-Cutting in Countryside, IL with In-Kind Donations of \$125,000*

**Delray Beach, Fla., June 1, 2005** – Office Depot (NYSE:ODP), a leading global provider of office products and services, is celebrating the opening of its 1,000<sup>th</sup> North American store with a series of promotional events and philanthropic activities.

These initiatives, part of a week-long commemoration, are designed to benefit the Company's key stakeholders, including the communities (in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Canada) in which Office Depot conducts business; the customers (from small office/home office users to Fortune 500 accounts) whose loyalty has helped Office Depot grow into a \$14B enterprise in just 18 years; and the employees (47,000 worldwide) who are *Taking Care of Business* on a daily basis.

The celebration will be highlighted by a ribbon cutting on Thursday, June 2 at 2:00 pm at the new Office Depot store located at 1 Countryside Plaza in Countryside, IL. This opening marks the Company's 45th store in Illinois.

"Our North American stores are the most visible part of our company and are at the heart of our operations in both the U.S. and Canada," noted Steve Odland, Chairman and CEO of Office Depot. "So I am pleased to have the opportunity to share this milestone with those who have made it possible.

"We are excited by the opening of our 1,000<sup>th</sup> store as it signifies the growth and value of our company," Odland continued, in noting that Office Depot's North American Retail Division generated sales of almost \$6B in 2004 -- accounting for 44% of total Company revenue.

"Continuing to grow our retail operations remains one of our highest priorities," Odland said. "Looking ahead, we plan to continue to refine our innovative M2 store format and to update our assortment of products and services, while enhancing our legendary customer care to support them. These efforts will not only differentiate Office Depot from the competition, but will help the Company's core business customers become even more successful."

Additionally, Odland noted that the Company will work towards improving store productivity as it continues to expand its retail presence throughout North America by opening approximately 100 new stores in both 2005 and 2006. All new stores will feature Office Depot's M2 retail format, which represents the Company's latest thinking in sales and merchandising.

### **Community Celebrations**

According to Rick Lepley, Office Depot's Executive Vice President of North American Retail, the Company's ribbon cutting in Countryside will feature a number of special events, including remarks from state and local government officials and presentations by representatives of non-profit organizations.

As part of the ceremony, Office Depot will award:

- A \$125,000 check to Feed the Children, representing the 65 pallets of school supplies distributed to Title 1 schools in the Greater Chicago area. (Superintendents and children will attend the event.)
- In-kind donations of \$1,000 each to the Helping Hand Rehabilitation Center; America's Second Harvest/Chicago Food Depository; Chicago Youth Programs; and the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Office Depot and representatives from First Lady Patti Blagojevich's office will give 1,000 backpacks containing basic school supplies to Youth Outreach Services and Hispanocare, Inc., two Chicago-area children's non-profit organizations.

Additionally, the Company will:

- Plant a number of trees as well as 1,000 seedlings -- donated by the National Arbor Day Foundation -- in the Chicago and Countryside areas.
- Host a Food Drive -- at Office Depot's more than 40 Chicago area stores in conjunction with America's Second Harvest, the Chicago Food Depository and the Northern Illinois Food Bank -- in support of Hunger Awareness Day (June 7).
- Assist in serving 1000 hot lunches (as well as backpacks with school supplies) to children at Beatrice Caffrey Youth Services in Hyde Park.

"As First Lady of Illinois, as well as a mother of two, I am well aware of the vital role education plays in a child's development," said First Lady Patti Blagojevich. "I applaud the commitment Office Depot has shown by providing children with the materials they need to succeed in school through their National Backpack Program and the donation of backpacks at their special event."

"Office Depot's charitable mission is to enhance the quality of life in the communities in which we live and work," Lepley said. "Therefore, it gives us a great sense of pride to be able to leverage our 1,000<sup>th</sup> store as another opportunity to support organizations that make such a meaningful difference in the lives of children."

### **Customer Celebrations**

According to Chuck Rubin, Office Depot's Executive Vice President and Chief Merchandising/Marketing Officer, the Company has put together a diverse collection of

promotional vehicles to share the 1,000<sup>th</sup> store celebration with its multi-channel shoppers.

For example, at the Countryside store, Office Depot will host a VIP Day on June 2 and a Grand Opening Sales Event on June 5. Promotions include in-store specials, giveaways, and both coupon and product offers.

Several Chicago-area stores will also host special appearances by the No. 99 Office Depot Ford “show car,” highlighting the Company’s sponsorships of NASCAR and NEXTEL Cup Series driver Carl Edwards.

Additionally, Rubin noted that retail customers will have the opportunity to participate in a wide-array of vendor demonstrations (as well as product sampling and raffles) by Office Depot partners, including Acco, Belkin, Bunzl, Esselte, HP, Logitech, Maxell, Mead Westvaco, Nextel, Nikon, Nukote, Palm One, Quality Park, Sanford, Smead, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Weyerhaeuser.

To support all of these activities, Office Depot devised an integrated media strategy featuring a specially designed national insert, a versioned insert with creative wrap for the Chicago market, outdoor banners and pennants, direct mail, flyers, public relations and radio remotes.

### **Employee Celebrations**

According to Frank Scruggs, Office Depot’s Executive Vice President of Human Resources, the Company also is taking the 1,000<sup>th</sup> store celebration directly to its employees.

Activities include:

- An enhanced Intranet site featuring historical content, a trivia game and a message board to comment on the milestone.
- Streaming videos offering a historical retrospective of the Company’s growth, a recap of the in-store and on-campus events, and congratulatory sound bites from executives, celebrities, governmental officials and business partners.
- Raffles for \$1,000 money cards.
- Celebratory balloons and posters.
- A “History of Retail” showcase in Company headquarters, featuring memorabilia, old store uniforms, collateral materials and other cultural artifacts.

### **About Office Depot’s Store in Countryside**

The new Countryside store features Office Depot’s industry-leading M2 retail format. M2 offers customers the most enjoyable shopping experience in the industry – in a format that is intuitive, logical and designed specifically for the way people make purchase decisions.

Products are grouped in highly visible, strategically located “pods,” with core supplies at the outer perimeter of the store -- signed for optimal visibility and easy purchase -- and furniture and technology at the center -- to better support consultative sales. For more information, visit <http://mediarelations.officedepot.cc/m2>.

The Countryside store is managed by Ross Anderson and employs approximately 25 full- and part-time personnel. It houses about 8,000 technology, furniture and supply products as well as copy, print and ship services in 23,000 square feet of selling space.

Store operating hours are: Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### **About Office Depot**

With annual sales approaching \$14 billion, Office Depot provides more office products and services to more customers in more countries than any other company. Incorporated in 1986 and headquartered in Delray Beach, Florida, Office Depot conducts business in 23 countries and employs 47,000 people worldwide. The Company operates under the Office Depot®, Viking Office Products®, Viking Direct®, Guilbert®, and Tech Depot® brand names.

Office Depot is a leader in every distribution channel - from retail stores and contract delivery to catalogs and e-commerce. With \$3.1 billion in online sales in FY'04, the Company is the world's number three Internet retailer. As of March 26, 2005, Office Depot had 995 retail stores in North America in addition to a national business-to-business delivery network supported by 22 delivery centers and more than 60 local sales offices. Internationally, the Company conducts wholly-owned operations in 14 countries through 77 retail stores and 26 distribution centers, and operates 153 retail stores under joint venture and license arrangements in another seven countries.

The company's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ODP and is included in the S&P 500 Index. Additional press information can be found at: <http://mediarelations.officedepot.com>.